



# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR FOX VALLEY WISCONSIN COUNTIES

| April 2004

## Unadjusted Unemployment Rate Begins to Decline During March

**D**uring March, the seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for the Fox Valley Workforce Delivery Area declined 0.4 of a percentage to 5.7 percent. The decline during March represents the normal change in the seasonal cycle for the region.

This is the time period when the unemployment rate goes from increasing month to month to decreasing month to month. The declining rates usually continue into early fall. The 0.4 of a percent drop during the month was greater than the normal monthly decline of 0.2 of a percentage point measured over the 1990 to 2003 period.

All of the counties in the region experienced a decline in their monthly rate. Waupaca County had the greatest monthly drop with an 0.8 of a percentage point decline to 7.1 percent. Green Lake County remains the highest in the seven counties at 8.7 percent,

while the Appleton-Oshkosh Metropolitan Statistical Area (Outagamie, Winnebago, and Calumet Counties) had the lowest rate at 5.4 percent. Calumet and Winnebago were both at 5.0 percent, while Outagamie had 5.8 percent.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)				
	Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA	Wisconsin	United States (000s)	
<b>March-2004</b>				
Civilian Labor Force	236,700	3,110,500	146,650	
Employment	226,000	2,951,900	138,298	
Unemployment	10,700	158,600	8,352	
Unemployment rate	4.5%	5.1%	5.7%	
<b>February-2004 Change</b>				
Civilian Labor Force	1,300	25,100	(228)	
Employment	1,900	33,700	(181)	
Unemployment	(700)	(8,600)	(46)	
Unemployment rate	-0.3%	-0.3%	0.0%	
<b>March-2003 Change</b>				
Civilian Labor Force	900	45,300	832	
Employment	2,300	64,800	998	
Unemployment	(1,400)	(19,400)	(167)	
Unemployment rate	-0.6%	-0.7%	-0.1%	

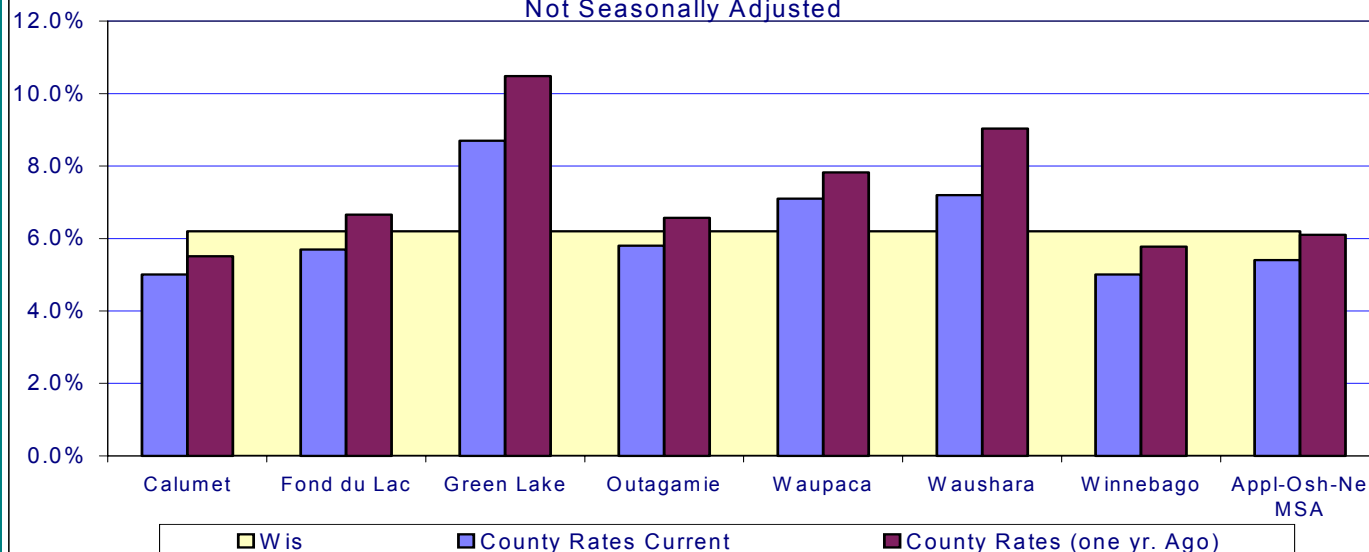
*Note: All estimates are round and preliminary, based on place of residence.*

While the monthly decrease shows that we are generally following the normal seasonal pattern for the region and possibly even a bit ahead, the change in unemployment from this year to last year is more encouraging. Overall the Fox Valley area had a decrease of 1.0 percentage point from last year. All of the counties in the region showed improvement ranging from a drop of 0.7 of a percentage point Waupaca and the Fox Cities to 1.8 of a percentage point in Green Lake County.

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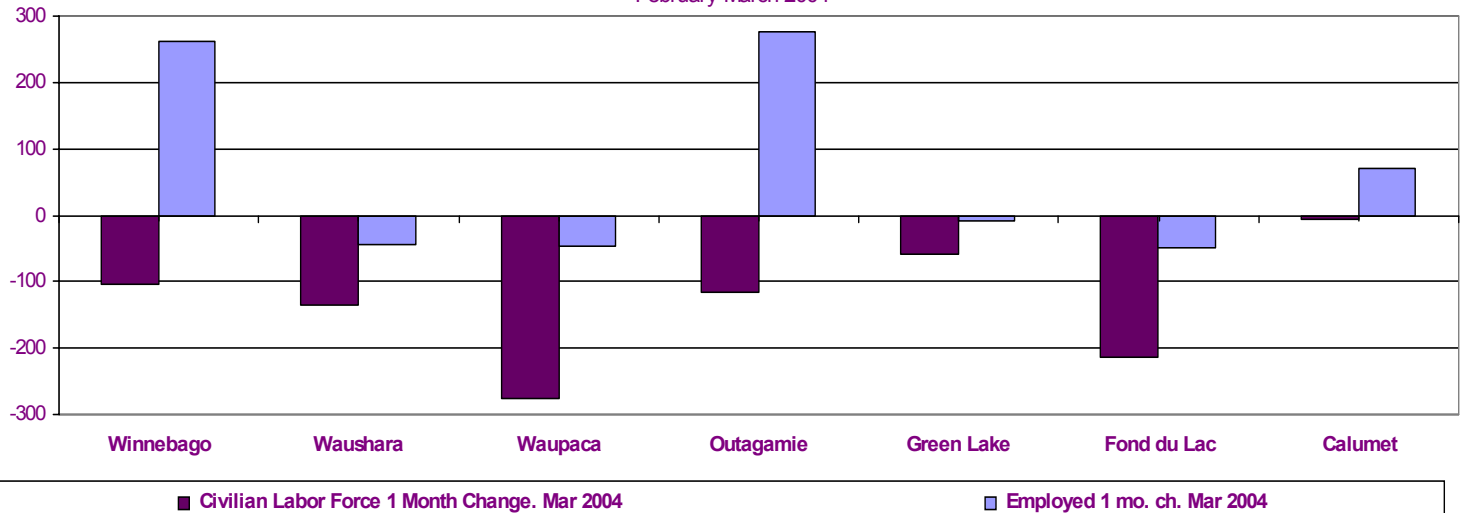
## Fox Valley County Unemployment Rates

Not Seasonally Adjusted



## Labor Force and Employment Change Wisconsin Fox Valley Area

February-March 2004



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The decrease in rates occurred as the number of workers in the labor force as well as the number of workers claiming to be employed increased. The labor force in the region was up 1,500, while the number of workers employed rose 4,200. This created a decline of 2,800 in the number estimated to be unemployed. There were 342,300 in the region's labor force in March with 322,600 employed. Following seasonal patterns, these numbers will continue to increase during the next several months, normally peaking in mid summer.

Although the number of workers claiming to be employed during the month increased, the number of nonfarm wage and salary (NFWS) employment declined in March by 900, dropping to 279,800. This also was a decline from last year. The majority of job loss occurred in the non

MSA counties in the region which lost 600 of the 900 during the month. Following seasonal patterns, this decline should begin to reverse itself during the next several months. There has been some indication that openings are increasing as many of the local job centers in the area reported an increase of job orders during March.

Many of the over the year job losses were in the construction industry, which may pick up later this year, this often depends on major projects in the region, and employment levels follow both a seasonal pattern as well as an economic pattern. Construction was down 900 from last year.

Another industry that has declined over the last year is local government which is down 400. Manufacturing also

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### U.S. Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

National (U.S. City Avg.) 1982-84 = 100	Class B/C-North Central States (1996 - 100) (Size 50,000-1,500,000)			Class D-North Central States (1996 - 100) (Size Less than 50,000)		
	Mar-04	Feb-04	Mar-03	Mar-04	Feb-04	Mar-03
Item	Index	Index	% Change Previous Month	Index	Index	% Change Previous Month
All Items	187.4	186.2	1.7%	115.2	114.7	1.4%
Food & Beverage	184.9	184.5	3.2%	113.6	114.2	2.1%
Housing	187.9	187.0	2.0%	113.5	113.0	1.2%
Apparel & Upkeep	123.5	118.6	-0.1%	92.1	88.7	1.4%
Transportation	160.5	158.8	-0.3%	114.9	114.0	-0.3%
Gasoline (all types)	149.8	142.5	1.6%	153.4	148.4	0.9%
Medical Care	307.5	306.0	4.5%	132.9	131.8	6.3%
Energy	143.1	140.6	0.4%	138.0	136.6	0.0%

(Not seasonally Adjusted)

## Wisconsin Fox Valley Workforce Development Area

	App/Osh/Ne					Fox Valley	Fox Valley Non	
March 2004	enah	Fond du Lac	Green Lake	Waupaca	Waushara	WDA	MSA's	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	235,200	56,700	10,600	27,600	12,200	342,300	107,100	3,092,800
Employed	222,600	53,500	9,700	25,700	11,300	322,600	100,200	2,901,700
Unemployed	12,600	3,300	900	2,000	900	19,600	7,100	191,200
Unemployment rate(%)	5.4%	5.7%	8.7%	7.1%	7.2%	5.7%	6.6%	6.2%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	4.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.1%
Total Nonfarm	199,900	46,600	6,900	20,600	5,900	279,800	79,900	2,761,400
Total Private	176,100	40,600	5,600	16,600	4,400	243,400	67,300	2,342,000
Goods Producing	57,400	12,800	1,600	5,600	1,100	78,400	21,000	617,100
Service Producing	142,500	33,800	5,300	15,000	4,800	201,400	58,900	2,144,300
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	11,300	2,400	300	700	300	15,100	3,800	117,600
Manufacturing	46,100	10,300	1,200	4,800	800	63,300	17,200	499,500
Trade	29,700	7,000	900	3,000	800	41,400	11,700	430,000
Transportation & Utilities	6,800	1,300	250	500	200	9,100	2,300	315,100
Financial Activities	10,300	1,800	280	700	200	13,300	3,000	158,800
Education and Health Services	21,600	6,200	1,100	2,600	700	32,100	10,500	375,500
Leisure & Hospitality	15,200	4,500	600	2,000	800	23,000	7,800	235,100
Info., Prof.& Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	35,100	7,000	1,000	2,300	600	46,000	10,900	955,100
Total Government	23,800	5,900	1,300	4,000	1,500	36,500	12,700	419,400
Federal	1,100	700	70	100	100	2,100	1,000	29,100
State	5,200	4,840	20	800	400	7,100	1,900	100,300
Local	17,500	5,000	1,200	3,000	1,000	27,700	10,200	290,000
Change from one month ago February 2004								
Civilian Labor Force*	-200	-200	0	-300	-100	-900	-600	-6,900
Employed	600	0	0	0	0	400	0	2,200
Unemployed	-800	-100	-100	-200	-100	-1,400	-500	-8,900
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.4%	-0.8%	-0.6%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.3%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	-0.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.3%
Total Nonfarm	1,000	200	-50	100	0	1,200	200	13,400
Total Private	1,000	200	-50	0	0	1,200	200	11,000
Goods Producing	100	0	-20	0	0	100	100	3,200
Service Producing	900	200	-30	0	0	1,100	200	10,200
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	200	0	0	0	0	300	100	4,800
Manufacturing	-100	0	-10	0	0	-100	0	-1,600
Trade	300	0	10	-50	0	300	0	3,100
Transportation & Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500
Financial Activities	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	-700
Education and Health Services	200	100	10	0	0	300	100	700
Leisure & Hospitality	200	100	-60	20	0	200	0	2,400
Info., Prof.& Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	200	0	0	30	0	300	100	2,200
Total Government	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	2,400
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100
State	200	0	0	-10	0	200	0	900
Local	-200	0	0	50	0	-200	100	1,600
Change from one year ago March 2003								
Civilian Labor Force*	600	100	-100	600	200	1,500	800	46,000
Employed	2,300	700	200	800	400	4,200	2,100	64,700
Unemployed	-1,700	-500	-200	-100	-200	-2,800	-1,000	-18,600
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.7%	-1.0%	-1.8%	-0.7%	-1.8%	-0.9%	-1.0%	-0.7%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	-0.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.7%
Total Nonfarm	-1,400	-900	-400	-600	-200	-3,400	-2,000	34,800
Total Private	-900	-1,000	-300	-400	-100	-2,700	-1,800	41,600
Goods Producing	-800	-500	-100	-200	0	-1,500	-700	3,100
Service Producing	-600	-500	-300	-400	-200	-1,900	-1,300	31,700
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-400	-300	-100	-100	0	-900	-500	7,800
Manufacturing	-400	-200	0	-100	0	-600	-200	-4,700
Trade	700	-300	0	-200	0	100	-600	11,500
Transportation & Utilities	-100	-100	0	0	0	-200	-100	7,900
Financial Activities	-600	0	0	0	0	-700	-100	3,800
Education and Health Services	300	-300	0	0	0	100	-200	13,600
Leisure & Hospitality	-700	100	-100	0	0	-800	-100	8,500
Info., Prof.& Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	300	0	0	-100	0	200	-100	17,100
Total Government	-500	100	-100	-200	-100	-800	-300	-6,800
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-600
State	-300	0	0	0	0	-300	0	-3,500
Local	-200	100	-100	-200	-100	-400	-200	-2,700

\* Includes participants residing in area. \*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.

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remains below one year ago levels, and was down 600. This compares to a decline of 4,700 for the State of Wisconsin for this industry.

### **Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates**

The seasonally adjusted rate for the Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA decreased 0. of a percentage point to 4.5

percent. The rate was 0.6 of a percentage point below one year ago. Rates for other MSA's around the state were: Green Bay, 4.6 percent; Sheboygan, 4.5 percent; Milwaukee, 5.8 percent, and Madison, 2.6 percent. The nation's unemployment rate was 5.7 percent, and Wisconsin's was 5.1 percent.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

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## **The 11th annual Governor's Workforce Development Conference**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Workforce Development Conference. This year's conference is designed around the Governor's "Grow Wisconsin" economic initiative. Since Governor Doyle unveiled this initiative he has signed into law comprehensive legislation to modernize our financial system, sales tax relief for manufacturers, groundbreaking regulatory reform laws, and has expanded access to technology zone tax credits. But there is much more to do and we want you to be a part of shaping a new direction for our economy.

The conference runs May 19-21, 2004 with Governor Doyle keynoting on the conference's opening day. Public and private employers and individuals throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest will gather to network, strategize, and solve the issues impacting economic and workforce development to grow Wisconsin's economy. This year's conference will focus on four practices: developing partnerships, investing in Wisconsin's citizens, growing Wisconsin's economy and fostering a productive climate for business and workers.

In order to grow Wisconsin's economy, we need to continue looking to new strategies, expanding our networks and identifying innovative ways to meet the challenges of our evolving economy. I hope that attending this conference will offer you a sense of renewal and recognition for your daily efforts in support of Wisconsin's economy.

To register, or get more information on the conference, please visit this web site <http://www.gwdc.net/>

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**Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI>**

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